



Lakelands
Academy

ADMISSIONS POLICY

2026/27

Approved: 11.12.2024

Policy Responsibility SAH

Policy Approval Admissions Committee

Lakelands Academy Admissions Policy

1. Lakelands Academy is an 11 -16 comprehensive academy with a maximum Published Admission Number (PAN) of 116 in each of the five year groups. Lakelands Academy is an admissions authority and is responsible for setting its own admissions policy. Currently, it has adopted the same arrangements and oversubscription criteria as those determined by Shropshire council for maintained Shropshire schools.

For transfers to secondary school/academy in Year 7 the Council's Admissions Team co-ordinates the admissions process and all enquiries regarding Admissions should be addressed to them. They publish a booklet "Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire" each year with up to date information about schools/academies and a full explanation of the admissions processes. The booklets are available from the Shropshire website and reference copies are available in schools/academies and local libraries.

Parents/carers who may wish to speak directly to an Admissions Advisor may also contact them through the Admissions Team.

Admissions to the Kettlemere Centre, which is a provision for students with communication and Interaction needs, should be made through Shropshire Council's SEND Team.

- 1.1 A copy of the determined arrangements are available for viewing on the Council's website at www.shropshire.gov.uk
- 1.2. The contact address is: Admissions Team, Learning and Skills, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND. Tel: 0345 678 9008 or email: school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk. Website www.shropshire.gov.uk

2. PAN

This academy has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 116 for each Year 7 intake (this number also applies to Years 8 – 11). The number of preferences received and places allocated for the previous year can be viewed on the Shropshire Council website and in the Parents' Guide to Education booklet.

3. Statemented Students (with a statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan EHCP)

Students with a statement will not be part of an oversubscription process and will receive a place at the academy in the event of the academy being oversubscribed.

4. The Kettlemere Centre SEND Hub

The Kettlemere Centre SEND Hub specialist provision can only be accessed via application to Shropshire Local Authority SEN Specialist Panel and does not form part of the published admissions number and wider Lakelands Academy Admissions Policy. Places in the Kettlemere Centre SEND Hub are allocated by the above panel. Please note that Lakeland Academy cannot accept direct applications and/or applications through standard admissions processes. If you would like a space for your child, you will need to contact Shropshire LA SEND team directly on 01743 254267 senteam@shropshire.gov.uk

5. Applications

Parents/Carers of Year 6 children and resident in Shropshire will be required in the Autumn term prior to the academy year of transfer to make an application naming 3 preferences via the Shropshire website. The online application facility will be available in early September. Where there are more applications than there are places available, allocations will be made in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Full details of these criteria are given in the Parents' Guide booklet; therefore, it is recommended that parents read the booklet before completing an application. In general terms, they are based upon the following (in order):

“Children who have a Education and Health Care Plan from Shropshire Council, which names the school/academy which the child should attend because their needs can be met best by that particular school/academy, will be offered places before other children.”

After that places will be offered up to the admission number in the following priority order:

Priority 1:

'Looked after children' or children who were previously 'looked after' but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order¹ including those who appear to the admission authority (Shropshire) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Notes:

A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

¹ An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders).

A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians)

Priority 2:

Children living inside the catchment area will have next priority. If there are not enough places for all the children living in the catchment area, we will look at the following two criteria:

- 1) Priority will be given to children living within the catchment area who will have an older sibling of compulsory school age (11 – 16) at the academy on the day they are due to start there.
- 2) After that, priority will be given to other children who live within the catchment area.

Priority 3:

After that, any places that are left will be offered to children who live outside the catchment area. If there are not enough places for all of them, we will look at the following two criteria:

- 1) Priority will be given to children living outside the catchment area who will have an older sibling of compulsory school age (11 – 16) at the academy on the day they are due to start there.
- 2) Secondly, priority will be given to children living outside the catchment area without an older sibling at the academy, but who have attended a state-funded or publicly - funded primary school that lies within the secondary academy's catchment area, for more than a whole academic year immediately prior to transfer.
- 3) After that, priority will be given to other children who live outside the catchment area.

If there are more applications than there are places available according to the PAN, priority will be given on the basis of the straight line distance between the home address and the Academy as calculated using a computerised mapping system. The shortest distance will be given priority.

The closing date for applications is October 31st. Allocations are published online on March 1st.

6. Notes which apply to the oversubscription criteria:

Very exceptionally, where a child has a particular health reason requiring them to attend a specific school/ Academy, that child may be given a place before any of the children who qualify under Priorities 2 and 3 above. This will only be allowed if parents/carers can provide written evidence from a medical professional that attending that particular school/ academy is **essential** to the medical well-being of the child. The Council reserves the right to check the relevance of the medical condition.

Catchment area maps can be viewed on LocalView available from 'Maps' at the foot of the website www.shropshire.gov.uk. Individual addresses can be checked by contacting the Admissions Team.

The definition of a sibling is the brother or sister, stepbrother or stepsister, half-brother or half-sister, fostered or adopted sibling living at the same address as part of the same family unit and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 – 16 years). Older siblings must still be attending the academy on the date the younger sibling is due to start there. Cousins or other relatives who take up residence in the home in order to establish an “in catchment area” address will not be given priority under the sibling criteria.

In the case of twins or triplets from the same address the school will endeavour to admit both or all siblings.

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child. This is normally expected to be with the parent/carer who has care of the child for the majority of the time (that is academy time during the week in term time) but where care is shared equally, the home address will be determined by which parent receives the relevant Child Benefit.

7. Appeals Process

Any applicant refused a place at the Academy has a right of appeal. If you are refused admission, you will automatically receive a letter from the

local authority advising you of your right to appeal. If you do choose to go to appeal, the LA will administer and host the appeal.

8. Mid-Term or In-Year Admissions

Where families wish to change the school/ academy their child attends at other times of the year after the start of Year 7, , they are invited to submit a mid-term application form, [via this link – Synergy - Homepage \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk). Your application will be processed by the School Admissions Team at Shropshire Council in accordance with our school’s oversubscription criteria. You will then be notified via letter of the outcome of your application.

If only one place is available and there are other applicants applying, the same published criteria will be applied to determine who will get the place. If there are no places available, the Academy will inform the local authority who will write to the individuals outlining the appeals process. The Academy may refuse to admit a child where there are places available on the grounds that admission of such a student would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources in any year group.

9. Fair Access Protocols

The academy will consult and co-ordinate its arrangements - including those designed to secure the rapid re-integration of children who have been excluded from other schools/ academies and those who arrive in an area after the normal admissions round - in accordance with Shropshire’s local in-year Fair Access Protocols for securing schools/academies for unplaced children. The Fair Access Panel comprises three Headteachers and meets regularly to allocate students. There will always be an even distribution between schools/academies.